

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2021-2022**

**H. B. No. 569**

**Representatives Holmes, White**

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**A BILL**

To enact section 3333.421 of the Revised Code to 1  
authorize state institutions of higher education 2  
to establish Ohio Hidden Hero Scholarship 3  
Programs. 4

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 3333.421 of the Revised Code be 5  
enacted to read as follows: 6

**Sec. 3333.421.** (A) As used in this section: 7

(1) "Eligible caregiver" means an individual who is 8  
enrolled as a family caregiver under the "Program of 9  
Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers," 38 U.S.C. 1720G 10  
and who provides care to a veteran, as defined in section 11  
3333.31 of the Revised Code, who has a one hundred per cent 12  
service-connected disability. 13

(2) "State institution of higher education" has the same 14  
meaning as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code. 15

(B) Each state institution of higher education may 16  
establish an Ohio hidden hero scholarship program. Under the 17  
program, a state institution shall accept applications to 18

participate in the program from eligible caregivers who enroll 19  
in the institution. In each academic year in which a state 20  
institution receives applications to participate in the program, 21  
the institution may approve one or more eligible caregivers to 22  
participate for that year. For each approved participant, the 23  
state institution shall do all of the following: 24

(1) For each academic year in which the participant is 25  
enrolled, waive any instructional and general fees remaining for 26  
the participant after all other financial aid for which the 27  
participant qualifies has been applied to the participant's 28  
account, as determined by the institution; 29

(2) Provide the participant with a stipend, in an amount 30  
determined by the institution, to purchase textbooks in each 31  
academic year in which the participant is enrolled; 32

(3) Provide assistance to the participant to ensure that 33  
any college credits earned by the participant while enrolled in 34  
the institution may be transferred to another institution of 35  
higher education; 36

(4) Provide the participant with an opportunity to earn 37  
college credits for which the participant qualifies, as 38  
determined by the institution, based on the participant's 39  
caregiver experience. 40

(C) The chancellor of higher education shall establish 41  
guidelines and procedures for programs established under this 42  
section including an application form and an application 43  
deadline. Under the application, the chancellor shall require an 44  
applicant to provide a letter of eligibility from the United 45  
States department of veterans affairs. Not later than ninety 46  
days after the effective date of this section, the chancellor 47

<u>shall establish a web site regarding programs established under</u>	48
<u>this section, which shall include a list of each state</u>	49
<u>institution that has established a program.</u>	50